

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NDJAME 01922 241450Z

50

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 L-03 IO-10 PRS-01 SCCT-01

DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 /052 W

----- 051942

P R 241240Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9945

DIA

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1922

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CD

SUBJ: FRENCH NEGOTIATIONS WITH REBELS FOR RELEASE BARDAI

HOSTAGE UPSET BY GOC

REF: NDJAMENA 1423 (NOTAL)

1. DAO HAS OBTAINED FROM SOURCES PROVEN RELIABLE IN PAST DETAILED CHRONOLOGY APRIL TO PRESENT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOC AND REBEL GROUP LED BY HISSENE HABRE WHICH CAPTURED TWO FRENCH AND ONE GERMAN HOSTAGE AT BARDAI ON APRIL 21, 1974. GERMAN HOSTAGE RANSOMED BY FRG IN JUNE 1974 LEADING TO BREAK IN FRG/GOC RELATIONS. FRENCH MAJOR PIERRE GALOPIN WHO SENT FROM PARIS DURING SUMMER 1974 TO NEGOTIATE WITH REBELS BECAME THIRD FRENCH HOSTAGE. GALOPIN MURDERED BY CAPTORS APRIL 4 AFTER FRENCH REFUSAL CONSIDER ARMS AS PART OF RANSOM, WHILE HOSTAGE MARC COMBES ESCAPED BY CAPTORS' LAND ROVER VIA LIBYA ON MAY 23.

2. FOLLOWING SEVERAL TRIPS CHAD BY GOF MINISTRY OF COOPERATION OFFICIAL STEPHEN HESSEL, FRENCH AND REBELS AGREED ON TERMS FOR RELEASE MME CLAUSTRE, SOLE REMAINING FRENCH HOSTAGE. TERMS INCLUDED PAYMENT APPROXIMATELY DOLS 1 MILLION, SUPPLY FIVE LAND ROVERS, EIGHT TRANSCEIVERS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, OFFICE EQUIPMENT, BLANKETS, GASOLINE, UNIFORM MATERIAL, AND 42 TONS OF FOOD.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NDJAME 01922 241450Z

RANSOM SUPPLIES AND MONEY WERE TO HAVE BEEN DELIVERED JULY 23,

SAVE FOR APPROXIMATELY DOLS 250,000 TO BE DELIVERED UPON RELEASE
MME CLAUSTRE ON AUGUST 1. GALOPIN REMAINS WERE TO BE RELEASED
TO FRENCH JULY 23.

3. GOC HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY UPSET WITH WHAT IT REGARDS AS
LACK OF FRANKNESS ON PART OF FRENCH, PARTICULARLY MINISTRY
COOPERATION NEGOTIATOR STEPHAN HESSEL, AND GOC HAS FORBIDDEN
JULY 23 FLIGHT. FRENCH GENERAL OF DIVISION MICHEL DUVAL ARRIVED
NDJAMENA JULY 23 ACTING ON BEHALF MINISTRY COOPERATION TO DISCUSS
EVENTS, BUT GOC SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL PRESIDENT (AND CHIEF OF
STATE) GENERAL MALLOUM REPORTEDLY UNAWARE HE WAS COMING AND
REFUSED TO SEE HIM. SMC UPSET WITH HESSEL ANNOUNCEMENT TO FRENCH
PRESS AFTER RETURN FROM MOST RECENT VISIT, WHICH SMC DESCRIBES
AS INTERFERENCE WITH CHADIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SMC DECRIES
TERMS OF RANSOM, ALLEGING THAT MATERIEL IS IN GOOD PART MILITARY
IN NATURE. BUT MOST IMPORTANT, PROBABLY, IS GOC SUSPICION
THAT DC-4 WHICH TO PICK UP THREE FRENCH GAMA AGENCY JOURNALISTS
FROM REMOTE DIRT STRIP NORTHERN CHAD IS TO DELIVER ARMS TO
HISSENE HABRE (WHO KNOWN TO HAVE MET WITH JOURNALISTS); THAT
ESCAPE OF MARC COMBES ENGINEERED BY REBELS WITH CONDITION THAT
SUPPLY OF ARMS THROUGH INTERMEDIARY MME CLAUSTRE'S HUSBAND WHO
IN FRANCE; AND THAT GOF AWARE OF ARMS SHIPMENT. GOC MADE
PARTICULARLY SUSPICIOUS BY FACT THAT AIRCRAFT CREW (AIRCRAFT
BEING HELD, APPARENTLY, IN NIGER AT REQUEST CHAD) CONTAINS AT
LEAST ONE KNOWN FORMER MERCENARY ACTIVE BIAFRA. AIRCRAFT DOES
NOT, OF COURSE, HAVE OVERFLIGHT OR LANDING CLEARANCE FROM GOC.

4. MATTERS BROUGHT TO HEAD WHEN LOCAL AFP CORRESPONDENT SENT
PARIS DESPATCH CLEARED WITH SMC ON JULY 23 APPARENTLY FACTUAL
IN NATURE ALONG ABOVE LINES, AFP PARIS, HOWEVER, SEVERELY EDITED
DISPATCH IN MANNER FAVORING FRENCH POSITION AND WEAKENING
THAT OF GOC. NDJAMENA DAILY NEWSHEET, INFOTCHAD ON JULY 24
PUBLISHED BOTH AFP DISPATCH AS IT SENT FROM NDJAMENA AND
ARTICLE WHICH PUBLISHED PARIS, AND, SPEAKING FOR SMC ASKS
"WHERE IS OBJECTIVITY, LIBERTY OF EXPRESSION FRENCH PRESS?
WHERE INTELLECTUAL HONESTY WHEN ENDS OF OBJECTIVE ENQUIRY ARE
DEFORMED?"

5. COMMENT: SEEMS EVIDENT THAT FRENCH EMB AND GOF, ANXIOUS
TO RID THEMSELVES FINALLY OF HOSTAGE PROBLEM, OVERESTIMATED THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NDJAME 01922 241450Z

TO WHICH THEY COULD AGREE WITHOUT EXPLICIT APPROVAL GOC. FRENCH
EMB NONCOMMUNICATIVE AND GLUM. ONE SENIOR FRENCH EMBOFF WHEN
ASKED ABOUT VERACITY REPORT ARMS SHIPMENT DID NOT DENY IT, BUT
STATED ONLY THAT IF IT OCCURRED AND UNDERTAKEN BY PRIVATE
FRENCH CITIZEN THERE NO LEGAL MEANS GOF ABLE PREVENT IT.
(ARMS REPORTEDLY SHIPPED FROM LUXEMBOURG.) FRENCH AMB MET
WITH SMC PRESIDENT MALLOUM FOR OVER HOUR JULY 24, BUT RESULTS
DISCUSSION NOT YET KNOWN.

DWYER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HOSTAGES, TERRORISTS, ALLEGATIONS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NDJAME01922
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750255-0693
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750725/aaaaawrp.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NDJAMENA 1423
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH NEGOTIATIONS WITH REBELS FOR RELEASE BARDAI HOSTAGE UPSET BY GOC
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CD
To: STATE DIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006